§ 225.31 Investigations.

(a) It is the policy of the FRA to investigate rail transportation accidents/incidents which result in the death of a railroad employee or the injury of five or more persons. Other accidents/incidents are investigated when it appears that an investigation would substantially serve to promote railroad safety.

(b) FRA representatives are authorized to investigate accidents/incidents and have been issued credentials authorizing them to inspect railroad records and properties. They are authorized to obtain all relevant information concerning accidents/incidents under investigation, to make inquiries of persons having knowledge of the facts, conduct interviews and inquiries, and attend as an observer hearings conducted by railroads. When necessary to carry out an investigation, the FRA may authorize the issuance of subpoenas to require the production of records and the giving of testimony.

(c) Whenever necessary, the FRA will schedule a public hearing before an authorized hearing officer, in which event testimony will be taken under oath, a record made, and opportunity provided to question witnesses.

(d) When necessary in the conduct of an investigation, the Federal Railroad Administration, DOT § 225.27 Retention of records.

(a) Each railroad shall retain the Railroad Employee Injury and/or Illness Record and the Monthly List of Injuries and Illnesses required by § 225.25 for at least five years after the end of the calendar year to which they relate. Each railroad shall retain the Initial Rail Equipment Accident/Incident Record required by § 225.25 for at least two years after the end of the calendar year to which it relates. Each railroad must retain the Employee Human Factor Attachments required by § 225.12, the written notices to employees required by § 225.12, and the Employee Statements Supplementing Railroad Accident Reports described in § 225.12(g) that have been received by the railroad for at least 2 years after the end of the calendar year to which they relate.

(b) Each railroad must retain a duplicate of each form it submits to FRA under § 225.21, for at least 2 years after the calendar year to which it relates.


§ 225.29 Penalties.

Any person (an entity of any type covered under 1 U.S.C. 1, including but not limited to the following: a railroad, a manager, supervisor, official, or other employee or agent of a railroad; any owner, manufacturer, lessor, or lessee of railroad equipment, track, or facilities; any independent contractor providing goods or services to a railroad; and any employee of such owner, manufacturer, lessor, lessee, or independent contractor) who violates any requirement of this part or causes the violation of any such requirement is subject to a civil penalty of at least $650 and not more than $25,000 per violation, except that: Penalties may be assessed against individuals only for willful violations, and where a grossly negligent violation or a pattern of repeated violations has created an imminent hazard of death or injury to persons, or has caused death or injury, a penalty not to exceed $100,000 per violation may be assessed. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. See appendix A to this part for a statement of agency civil penalty policy. A person may also be subject to the criminal penalties provided for in 49 U.S.C. 21311.